

# Maine Lakes Survey –

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection, DEP, has developed this survey for lake associations and  
 quality, scenic quality, local æ-  
 p-  
 r-  
 n-  
 vey is to discover what lake users think about water  
 tion projects, and the effectiveness of laws that protect  
 would like to understand what you as users and shore-  
 erty owners know about your lakes, what you think  
 should be done and what you are willing to do to pro-  
 tect your lake. The information we collect from this sur-  
 vey will assist the DEP in directing our lakes program and educa-  
 tional efforts, as well as help lake associations in developing and conducting

Note: There were 614 surveys returned by the deadline.  
 Respondents on average left approximately 2-  
 swered (blank) except where noted for question 5B.

1	A. Which lake do you use most?	~ 138 lakes represented in data set
	B. What town(s) is this lake in?	
	C. How many years have you been visiting/living on this l	Average = 32 years

2	Mark one box for each statement.				
			Re-	Wors-	
	A. In general, over the , lake water quality in the lake I use most has .....	12%	58%	26%	3%
	B. In general, over the <b>last ten years</b> , scenic beauty of the lake I	7%	69%	21%	1%
	C. In general, over the , I expect lake water quality in the lake I use most to ...	24%	34%	33%	7%
	D. In general, over the , I expect lake scenic beauty in the lake I use most to ....	14%	56%	26%	4%

3	A	For each of the items below, how do you rate the current condition of the lake you use most ? (Mark one box for each item.)				
	A. Water quality	17%	57%	20%	5%	
	B. Scenic quality of the lake and shoreland areas.	32%	54%	13%		0

3	B	you use the most. (Mark one box for each item.)				
			<b>Too Much</b>	<b>About Right</b>	<b>Too Little</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
		A. Rooted vegetation in the lake.	35%	50%	3%	9%
		B. Floating algae on the surface.	25%	50%	1%	18%
		C. Fish habitat.		58%	30%	9%
		D. Diversity of birds and wildlife.	1%	81%	14%	2%
		E. Ducks & geese.	20%	65%	9%	4%
		F. Shoreland development.	43%	51%	2%	2%
		G. Motorized watercraft.	45%			
		H. Natural shoreline vegetation (trees & shrubs).	2%	71%	25%	1%
		I. Water level fluctuations	23%	70%	2%	4%

4	A	In your opinion, how much of an effect have each of the following had on the _____ of the lake you use most? (Mark one box for each item.)						
					<b>No</b>			
		A. Shoreline vegetation (trees and shrubs) re-	20%	35%	24%	8%	2%	6%
		B. Lawn fertilizers and chemicals.	27%	26%	22%	7%	1%	13%
		C. Road ditches or parking lot runoff.	35%	28%	18%	5%	1%	10%
		D. Soil erosion from home sites (include drive-	27%	32%	22%	7%	1%	8%
		E. Septic systems around the lake.	18%	31%	22%	7%		19%
		F. Soil erosion from farms and fields.	11%	18%	24%	21%	9%	14%
		G. Livestock manure.	8%	9%	22%	30%	13%	17%
		H. Timber harvesting.	10%	19%	29%	19%	6%	14%
		I. Exhaust and fuel leakage from motorized wa- ter	14%	31%	31%	11%	1%	10%
		J. Damage to aquatic plants (weeds) and lake bot- tom by watercraft.	7%	20%	30%	22%	1%	17%
		K. Regulated water levels (i.e., dam operation).	14%	16%	22%	22%	12%	11%
		L. Exotic species invasions (non-	6%	8%	19%	27%	5%	32%
		M. Agricultural fertilizers and chemicals.	11%	15%	21%	18%	9%	23%
		N. Vehicle and snow sled access in the winter.	7%	16%	31%	26%		18%
			6%	13%	24%	33%	6%	16%

4	B	In your opinion, how much of an impact have each of the following had on the _____ of the lake you use most? (Mark one box for each item.)						
				on				
A. Timber harvesting.		10%	20%	27%	20%	16%	4%	
B. Cabin or home development.		12%	37%	35%	12%	1%	1%	
C. Installation of large shoreline structures (such as docks & boat lifts).		9%	21%	35%	19%	12%	2%	
D. Resort or marina development.		8%	9%	14%	13%	50%	3%	
E. Industrial and commercial development.		8%	4%	9%	11%	59%	5%	
F. Tree and shrub removal in the shoreland		16%	27%	31%	14%	6%	4%	
G. Building roads close to shore.		15%	17%	20%	12%	27%	6%	
-rap construction.		5%	9%	20%	25%	20%	16%	
I. Retaining walls.		5%	13%	27%	22%	19%	11%	
J. Noise level (watercraft).		32%	26%	21%	12%	5%	1%	

5	A	Do you support or oppose the following actions to address any problems on the lake you use the most? (Mark one box for each item.)				
A. Stricter septic system regulations to improve water quality.		75%	18%	2%	3%	
B. More water quality education.		92%	6%			
C. Stricter zoning regulation for shoreline development to maintain natural shoreline character.		64%	24%	9%	1%	
D. More enforcement of existing shoreland protection laws.		77%	15%	6%	1%	
E. Awards program for shoreland property owners who minimize their impacts.		64%	25%	7%	2%	
F. Stricter regulations to protect shoreland trees and shrubs.		63%	23%	11%	1%	
G. More logger/forester education about the impacts of logging		73%	14%	3%	7%	
H. More farmer education about the impacts of farming practices		67%	18%	2%	10%	
I. More erosion control assistance for property owners.		83%	12%	2%	1%	
J. Motorboat size & speed limits to protect shoreland areas.		71%	15%	11%	1%	
K. Development of financial incentives for environmentally sound shoreland management.		65%	20%	8%	5%	
L. Increase minimum lot size requirements for shorefront prop-		48%	32%	14%	4%	
M. Other (please specify) _____						

5	B	Which of the following actions are you personally willing to take to improve or protect the water quality st? (Mark one box for each item.)				
		A. Plant a buffer (trees & shrubs along the shore).	63%	5%	18%	4% 10%
		B. Leave needles and leaves (duff layer) in buffer.	67%	11%	8%	4% 10%
		C. Reduce the size of my lawn.	33%	4%	24%	14% 25%
		D. Use soil test results to determine fertilizer needs for garden &	23%	12%	23%	8% 34%
		E. Use phosphorus free fertilizer.	43%	13%	9%	5% 30%
		F. Replace aging septic system (pre	46%	2%	26%	3% 23%
		G. Pump septic system every 3-5	62%	9%	13%	2% 14%
		H. If on a camp road, develop road maintenance plan to protect water	45%	12%	15%	1% 27%
		I. Spend time helping community with environmental projects.	48%	12%	27%	2% 11%
		J. Clean up pet waste.	49%	5%	5%	5% 36%
		K. Other: _____				

6		Overall, in thinking about Maine lakes at the present time, do you think laws and regulations related to the lake and lakeshore environment have:			
		Gone too far	Struck about the		
		5%	43%	43%	7%

6	B	Overall, do you think of existing laws and regulations related to the lake and lakeshore			
			Struck about the		
		4%	24%	64%	6%

7		Please check all that apply		
			Yes	No
		A. Shorefront property owner	92%	
		B. Renter (rent camp or home on lake)	2%	
			5%	

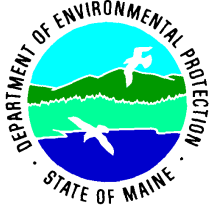
8	A	Are you male or female?	60%	Male	37%	Female
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8	B	How old are you? (Mark the box that applies)				
		Under 18 yrs	18 to 25 years	25 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 yrs or older
		< 1%	1%	2%	29%	65%

9		What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Mark the box that applies)					
							e-
		9%	14%	0	32%	41%	

10		Which groups do you belong to? (Mark all that apply.)						
			n-	c-				
		19%	42%	10%	78%	29%	5%	5%

Other Comments:	



1235 Central Drive  
Presque Isle, ME 04768

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If you would like, simply fold in half, place a 33 cent stamp in the upper right hand corner, and drop the completed survey in t

Surveys need to be returned no later than October 15, 2000

The results will be available sometime next year on DEP's  
[www.state.me.us/dep/](http://www.state.me.us/dep/)

**Thank You!**